(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring serving/retired civilians at par with men in uniform serving/retired; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the Defence Headquarters perform their duties as per the functions and responsibilities assigned to the posts held by them.

(b) The civilians and the personnel belonging to the Armed Forces posted in the defence headquarters are governed by different terms and conditions of service because of which there are some inherent differences. Hence, the question of discrimination does not arise.

(c) Not applicable in view of the reply at serial (b) above.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply at serial (b) above.

Inadequate power supply to electric fencing along LOC

†2338. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrical fencing erected on the Line of Control along Indo-Pak border is proving to be un-effective for non-availability of adequate supply of power; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of power for the fencing erected there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Adequate measures are in place to protect the Line of Control.

Defence equipments produced with cooperation of other countries

†2339. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the names of the countries by the cooperation of which the manufacturing of Defence equipments, aircrafts and helicopters is being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Some of the countries in cooperation of which India has been manufacturing Defence equipments, aircrafts and helicopters include Russia, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Israel, France, United Kingdom, United States of America and Belgium.

Upgradation and modernization of mirage fighters

2340. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French manufacturers of the Mirage fighter aircrafts are shutting down the manufacturing line;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is yet negotiating with the manufacturers to upgrade/modernize the aircrafts operational life;

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† Original notice of tl\p question was received in Hindi.